



# Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

October 31, 2003

## NATIONAL NEWS

### **Homeland Security Money Doesn't Match Terror Threat**

*USA Today*, October 30, 2003

Jurisdictions across the country are using federal funding to purchase equipment needed to respond to a terrorist attack; however, officials in the nation's largest cities have stated that they are only receiving a fraction of the funding needed.

➤ [Minding the Gaps: A Push for Rethinking Anti-Terror Funds](#), *Newsday*, Oct 30

### **Homeland Security Tests Intergovernmental Relations, Panel Says**

*GovExec*, October 27, 2003

DHS faces formidable challenges that, if not properly addressed, will escalate intergovernmental fragmentation, confusion and ineffectiveness, a panel of government experts said Thursday.

### **FBI Chief Extols Benefits of Post-9/11 Tech Upgrades**

*GovExec*, October 27, 2003

The government has made great strides in technology improvements since the September 11 terrorist attacks according to FBI Director Robert Mueller.

### **Bush Takes Softer Line on Releasing Sept. 11 Information**

*GovExec*, October 28, 2003

President Bush on Tuesday softened his line on the release of sensitive documents to the independent commission investigating government actions surrounding the September 11 terrorist attacks, indicating commission leaders might be able to see portions of the highly secret daily presidential briefing.

### **American Indian Tribes Forgotten Link in Emergency Planning**

*AP/ABQ Journal*, October 29, 2003

According to a New Mexico health official, Indian tribes are not always included when states plan for disasters and do not receive federal funding for homeland security.

### **Buoys to Help with Hurricane Forecasting**

*AP/Herald Tribune*, October 30, 2003

Part of a national effort to establish an ocean observation system, buoys off the coast of South Carolina are collecting information to develop a storm surge model, allowing emergency managers to better forecast flood areas.

### **\$30 Million Available to Higher Education for Bioterrorism Preparation**

*Business Wire*, October 29, 2003

In December, HHS will issue a Request for Application for the Bioterrorism Training & Curriculum Development grant program, making \$30 million available to colleges and universities to conduct evaluations of public health emergency preparedness and enhance the public health infrastructure.

## CONGRESS

### **Panel, New Study Cite Homeland Security Shortfalls**

*GovExec*, October 29, 2003

The Democratic Task Force on Homeland Security released a [report](#) that highlights the findings of a survey of local officials and first responders, who identified the top homeland security need as funding for communications technology.

## **Congress Acts to Boost Spending for Firefighting**

*KUSA*, October 29, 2003

The House is set to vote on an Interior Department spending bill that contains funding for wildfire preparedness and suppression.

## **RECENT LEGISLATION**

- **H.R. 3380:** To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act concerning the use of Federal disaster assistance for hazard mitigation measures.
- **S. 1799:** To encourage the development and promulgation of voluntary consensus standards by providing relief under the anti-trust laws to standards development organizations with respect to conduct engaged in for the purpose of developing voluntary consensus standards.

## **RECENT HEARINGS**

- House Armed Services Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee, [Destruction of the U.S. Chemical Weapons Stockpile – Program Status and Issues](#), Oct 30
- House Select Homeland Security Cybersecurity, Science, and Research and Development Subcommittee, [Homeland Security Science and Technology: A Progress Report](#), Oct 30

## **STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Citizens Must Take Initiative on Safety**

*Baltimore Sun*, October 25, 2003

Government at all levels has significant responsibilities when it comes to emergency preparedness and response, but citizens have an equally important role in preparing for emergencies.

- [Group Will Coordinate Would-Be Volunteers](#), *Springfield News-Sun*, Oct 30

### **Emergency Team Responds During Mock Disaster Drill**

*The Enquirer*, October 28, 2003

Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center in Battle Creek pretended Monday a huge truck bomb exploded outside the building as an exercise to determine preparation for a real disaster.

### **Axe Says Safety Plans Important**

*Linton Daily Citizen*, October 27, 2003

The Greene County Emergency Management Director hopes the state-mandated school disaster/crisis plans now in place in the five county school districts are adequate in the event "a real disaster strikes."

### **Homeland Security to Open**

*Jackson Sun News*, October 27, 2003

A regional homeland security office will open in Jackson early next month to help coordinate efforts across West Tennessee and which will have the authority and equipment to help local law enforcement in deterrence, prevention and protection while serving as the liaison for the governor's office in the event of a terrorist attack.

### **This Has Been a Test – Of Our Emergency Plan**

*The Advertiser-Tribune*, October 30, 2003

Seneca County conducted a two-day review of its emergency operations plan as part of the Ohio State Capabilities Assessment for Readiness.

### **Emergency Drill Debuts HEAT Team**

*KVAL 13 News*, October 29, 2003

The Eugene Police Department's Hazardous Environment and Tactics (HEAT), a cross between a SWAT team and a HazMat team, participated in its first preparedness drill.

### **Hospital Drills Emergency Well**

*Caledonian Record*, October 29, 2003

Citing bioterrorism concerns, water line malfunctions, and last year's contamination of Lyndon's town water supply, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital has begun work on a well to act as a backup water source.

- [Hospital Practices for Worst Scenario](#), *The Reporter*, Oct 30
- [Leaders Meet to Review Emergency Response Plans](#), *NNMC Press Release*, Oct 30

### **Schools Prepare for a Nuke Disaster**

*Pictorial Gazette*, October 30, 2003

Region 18 will stage a student relocation drill, moving students and staff to just outside the ten-mile Emergency Planning Zone around the Millstone Nuclear Power Station.

- [Phony Disaster a Good Test](#), *The Berkshire Eagle*, Oct 30

### **UM Earthquake Center Receives \$89K MEMA Grant**

*The Daily Mississippian*, October 30, 2003

The University of Mississippi Center for Community Earthquake Preparedness received a grant from MEMA to identify seismic hazards in those counties that fall within the New Madrid fault zone.

### **Fairfax Tests Bioterrorism Response Plan**

*Times Community*, October 28, 2003

Fairfax County held the last of a series of statewide exercises to test the bioterrorism preparedness of local jurisdictions, hospitals, and public safety organizations.

### **Safety Grants Given**

*Bridgeton News*, October 30, 2003

State grants were presented to a local jurisdiction and its emergency response community as part of the New Jersey Local Domestic Preparedness Equipment Grant program.

### **Hopkins Emergency Preparedness Office Wins \$3.5M in Federal Grants**

*Baltimore Business Journal*, October 30, 2003

The Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response received federal disaster preparedness grants to be used to develop plans for health system response to bioterrorism.

### **Round Twenty of Assistance to Firefighters Grants to Aid America's Fire Departments Announced**

*USFA Press Release*, October 31, 2003

453 grants to fire departments were announced this week as part of the 2003 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program.

## **RELATED INFORMATION**

### **RECENT REPORTS**

- [Federal Homeland Security Assistance to America's Hometowns: A Survey and Report from the Democratic Task Force on Homeland Security](#), October 29, 2003
- [Enhancing New York City's Emergency Preparedness](#), NY City Emergency Response Task Force, October 28, 2003

---

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.